

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00211 011603Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SCCT-02 INRE-00 AID-20

OMB-01 PC-10 DRC-01 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 SY-03 /150 W

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O 011305Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2583

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: MISSING TENNECO HELICOPTER

REF: A. ASMARA 208

B. ASMARA 210

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH BURTCHAE LL HE STATED THAT THE CAPTORS OF THE MISSING PARTY HAVE SENT TWO LETTERS OF DEMANDS. IN ONE LETTER WRITTEN IN AMHARIC, TIGRIGNA, ARABIC AND ENGLISH, THEY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS THE ELF. THEIR ONLY DEMAND AT THIS TIME IS THAT THERE BE NO RETALIATION AGAINST THEM OR THE VILLAGERS IN THE AREA. THESE LETTERS ARE DELIVERED TO VILLAGE OFFICIALS AND RELAYED TO ASMARA BY POLICE RADIO. A TEAM HEADED BY KEGN. ARAIA SEIUM, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF MASSAWA, AND COMPOSED OF VILLAGE ELDERS, IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH THE ELF ON BEHALF OF TENNECO. BURTCHAE LL STATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS SAID THAT THEY WILL NOT RETALIATE. COMMENT: RETALIATION BY ARMY OR POLICE AFTER HOSTAGES FREED WILL PROBABLY COMPLICATE MATTERS IF
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AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE CAPTURED AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

2. BURTCHAELL STATES THAT AT THIS TIME TENNECO ETHIOPIA
PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS EXPLORATION FOR COPPER IN ERITREA.
COMMENT: THE CAPTIVE PARTY IS LIKELY RECEIVING FIRM
INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT IS EXPECTED OF TENNECO IN ERITREA.

3. BURTCHAELL HAS REQUESTED THAT NAMES OF CAPTIVE
PARTY GIVEN IN REF (B) NOT RPT NOT BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS.
HE ALSO DISCOUNTS BBC REPORT OF \$1 MILLION RANSOM REQUESTED.
PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 01 APR 1974
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
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